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## News from Local Congregations

**Phyllis Byrd**, a UCC missionary serving in Kenya will be available from May 18 until June 14 to speak at churches throughout the conference. She had been invited to a number of Disciples congregations, and the following UCC churches have signed up to have her preach and present programs: First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, Sandy Creek UCC, Lafayette, AL, United Church Cookeville, UCC, TN, and Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN. Phyllis, who is a theological educator, has been serving with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa since 2001. She is an ordained minister of the UCC, and a graduate of ITC in Atlanta. **If you wish to have her come to your congregation to preach or present a program, contact Tim Downs at [tdowns@secucc.org](mailto:tdowns@secucc.org).**

**Plymouth Congregational UCC** in Charleston is holding a membership rally and dinner on **March 29th at 4:00P**, and invites friends from across the Conference to join them. Contact Sister Tracey Scott at [ebonyblair1@yahoo.com](mailto:ebonyblair1@yahoo.com) for details.



**Holy Trinity Community UCC** in Nashville led by **Pastor Cindy Andrews-Looper** has in three short years outgrown the facility in which they are worshipping. They have entered a conversation with the Church Building and Loan Fund of the Local Church Ministries of the UCC and the Conference concerning either the expansion of the facility on its current site, or the purchase of a larger facility.

**Pilgrimage UCC**, Marietta, GA, **pastor Kim Buchanan**, has announced that it too has outgrown its facility and is undertaking a **capital campaign** to expand their building.

**Pilgrim Congregational UCC**, Birmingham, pastor **Bud Precise**, continues its search for a called full-time pastor. Currently renting space with a Baptist church, they will be seeking to locate into a new building once they have completed their search.

**Community Congregational UCC**, Montgomery, has restarted its search for a new pastor, and will soon be receiving profiles.

**Unity UCC**, Montgomery, led by Bennie Liggins, ordained Deacon Stephen Williams on March 15th. They are also supporting **Oveta White** as a **student in care** before the Alabama Tennessee Church and Ministry Committee.

**First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, has moved out of its temporary quarters rented from Morris Brown College to the community center which they have renovated behind their historical church building. They have located their offices and worship space in the center. The church building is continuing to undergo major renovations, which may take a number of years.

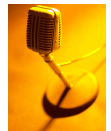
**Virginia-Highland Church (A Baptist and UCC Congregation)**, Atlanta, has arranged to bring **Michael Piazza** in May to help them continue their process of congregational renewal. Michael is the dean of the **Cathedral of Hope in Dallas**, a UCC mega-church.

**Bethany Congregational UCC**, Thomasville, GA, sent a delegation including their pastor **Jeremy Rich**, to a national **Church Vitality Conference** hosted by the UCC in Cleveland. This is a part of a long term renewal strategy that the church undertook three years ago, and for which it has received a national grant.

Congratulations to **Kirkwood UCC**, Atlanta, their pastor **Susannah Davis** and **Peace Congregational UCC**, Clemson, SC, and their pastor **Susie Smith**, new



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church starts of the Southeast Conference, for having both received major grants from national to match their other support from members and the conference this month.

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*Posted on March, 2009*

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